

7 November 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, SOURCE SURVEY DIVISION, FOREIGN DOCUMENTS BRANCH

SUBJECT: Exploitation of Captured Documents and Current Periodicals
by Air Documents Division, T-2, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

The following information was obtained from various individuals in the Air Documents Division in answer to the attached list of questions which you submitted to this Office. The numbering of the paragraphs below corresponds to the numbers on your list.

GENERAL

1. There is at present no special unit at Wright Field which exploits USSR material. Plans are being made for personnel with Russian qualifications to abstract all types of USSR technical documents in the future, but these have not yet been implemented. There is no organized project for translating or abstracting of USSR periodicals. Some 30 to 40 of the latter are at present received by the T-2 Reference Library, which is a subordinate unit of the Air Documents Division, but no exploitation of these has been undertaken. Some 10 of the periodicals are borrowed from the State Department on 48-hour loan for microfilming; the originals are then returned to State. It is anticipated that abstracts from USSR periodicals may be included in the T-2 publication known as the Technical Air Digest.

2. Owing to budget cuts, Wright Field no longer maintains a large translating section. Previously a section was maintained in New York of about 60 people. Translations now required by other divisions of T-2 are let out to commercial translating firms on a contract basis. Average cost on this basis is \$20.50 per thousand German words, or approximately \$5.00 per page. Copy, when received from the translating firm, is ready for reproduction.

At present Air Documents Division has 12 to 14 linguists, who are used for spot translation and to assist the Analysis Division in the evaluation of foreign material. These usually sit with the researcher, summarizing and interpreting the document, rather than preparing full translations. They also are used in abstracting articles from foreign periodicals and foreign documents for publication in the Air Technical Index.

This section handles German, Italian, Russian, French, Spanish, Scandinavian and the Oriental languages. No statistics are available as to monthly output or pages translated, owing to the informal methods of translation mentioned above.

USAF review(s) completed.

SECRET

3. The Air Documents Division is at present under study by the Aeronautical Board, which has recommended to the Secretary of National Defense that the Air Documents Division be redesignated as the Joint Army, Navy, Air Technical Documents Center. As such it will be subordinate to a subcommittee of the Aeronautical Board.

At present Wright Field is responsible to A-4 but the intelligence organizations of Wright Field (T-2) have a direct channel to A-2. One liaison officer from the Analysis Division, T-2, is attached to the Collection Branch, A-2, in Washington. Colonel Taylor and Lt. Colonel Garrett, in A-2, are also cognizant of document problems.

4. T-2 has no comparable unit to FDB's Source Survey Division. Hitherto all relevant material has been available and piled up at Wright Field, but a reorganization will create a Collection Section concerned with contacting all agencies and opening channels for the reception of Air Technical Index material for Air Documents Division. This Index covers all U.S. documents, contractors' reports, research and development reports; [] as well as other foreign Air Technical Documents. This Section will at first be directed toward data on guided missiles, jet propulsion, new technical equipment, etc., from all sources. 25X1C

The Control Section, ADD, performs one function of Source Survey Division by keeping a list of all Air Technical translations which have been made by ADD, Contractors, or U.S. Aeronautical firms. These are entirely captured German and Japanese technical documents; more current material is not included.

CAPTURED DOCUMENTS

1. The material forwarded to GNDG represents all the non-technical documents which were received by T-2. These documents had all been sorted and partially catalogued. The cataloguing ceased on order from Washington in November 1946. No Accession Lists were made, but typewritten catalogue cards were made up for each document. One set of these cards is still at Wright Field, one set was forwarded with the shipment, and one card attached to each document. Almost all of the documents were microfilmed, and the master microfilms are still held by T-2. A few documents were abstracted, none translated. Some boxes of non-catalogued documents were also shipped to GNDG. There was no dissemination or reproduction by T-2. of the catalog cards or of the documents themselves.

2. Wright Field does not expect to receive non-technical material from the ETO in the future. If any arrive by accident or are included with a shipment of Air Technical Documents, they will be transmitted to GNDG, Washington. Air Documents Division, would, therefore, be very glad to receive any German or Japanese Air Technical Documents for processing and permanent custody. The functions of this Division are strictly limited to Air Technical and related scientific data. Non-Technical Documents are of no interest.

CURRENT PERIODICALS IN USSR

1. A complete list of all USSR periodicals currently received by Wright Field, either by purchase or by loan, is attached as Appendix A. A list of those purchased, giving the price of each subscription, is attached as Appendix B. Subscriptions are obtained from the Four Continents Book Corporation, 253 Fifth Ave., New York City. Periodicals are received fairly regularly, with approximately two months time lag from the date of publication. A list of periodicals received by the Library of Congress from "The Embassy at Moscow" which T-2 obtained for checking purposes is attached as Appendix C. All three lists were undated but are presumably fairly current. A description of the Air Documents Division Reference Library is attached as Appendix D, as of possible interest to Source Survey Division.
2. Only those periodicals listed are currently received by Wright Field. Some of them contain non-technical articles, but no exploitation of these is accomplished. The periodicals are kept in the ADD Library.
3. No investigation has been made by T-2 of other agencies exploiting USSR periodicals.
4. Material collected by Air Attaches is forwarded to A-2. It is sorted there, and technical material believed to be of interest to T-2 is sent from the Collection Branch, A-2, to Wright Field for processing. Unfortunately Wright Field can not be certain that all relevant foreign periodicals reach them through this channel, but it is believed likely that T-2 is the main recipient of such technical periodicals as are collected by Air Attaches or Air Technical liaison officers abroad.
5. Considerable coordination has been effected by T-2 with other agencies on abstracts from foreign Air Technical periodicals, as is evident from the Air Technical Digest. It is suggested that Source Survey Division read the introductions to the seven issues of this publication, in which the subject has been discussed. The ADD Library subscribes to approximately 800 periodicals in the Aeronautical and Technical fields, many of which are foreign publications.
6. CIA receives four copies of T-2 publications automatically, and request should be made through OCD for routing of one of these to FDB if desired. The main publications at present are collated studies from German Air Technical Documents, the Air Technical Index (sample copies of which accompany this memo), and the Air Technical Digest.

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PLANS FOR USSR MATERIAL

1. Some Russian documents which were recaptured from the Germans are still at T-2. Those Russian documents, translated and issued by the Germans are included in the Document Index (1 copy of which may be obtainable by FDB from G-2. This Index consists of 220,000 cards containing abstracts of German Air Technical Documents).

All non-technical USSR documents were sent to A-2. The remaining technical documents, which are at Wright Field, together with such sporadic current USSR material as is received, are assigned numbers, listed by title and segregated in a special part of ADD. None has been completely processed or catalogued as yet, pending decision by higher authority as to whether this material may be included in the Air Technical Index. The latter presents a security problem, since it is received by Air Force Contractors, Research and Development institutions, etc.

2. It seems probable that ADD, with the extensive facilities under their control, will institute a rather large USSR project within the next six months or a year. Contact with ADD should, therefore, be maintained by FDB in order to avoid duplication and to allocate abstracting of Air Technical and Scientific material to ADD, for the benefit of CIA.


Assistant Chief
Planning & Coordinating Staff
Office of Operations

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Attachments: (5)
List of Questions
Appendices A, B, C, D.

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